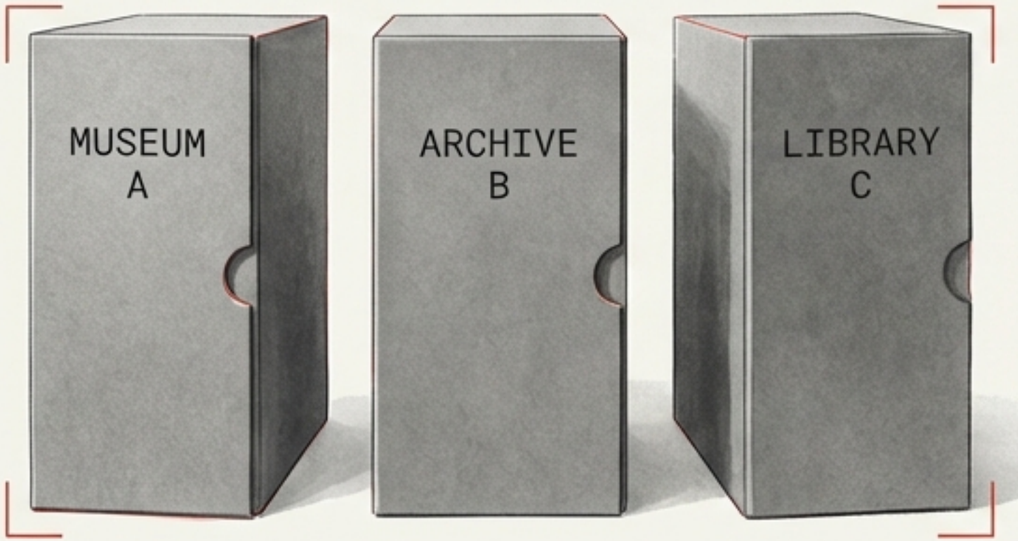
From Silos to Synapses

The Connected Future of Cultural Heritage

The Silos



The Synapses

Introducing Linked Art and the semantic engine that powers it.

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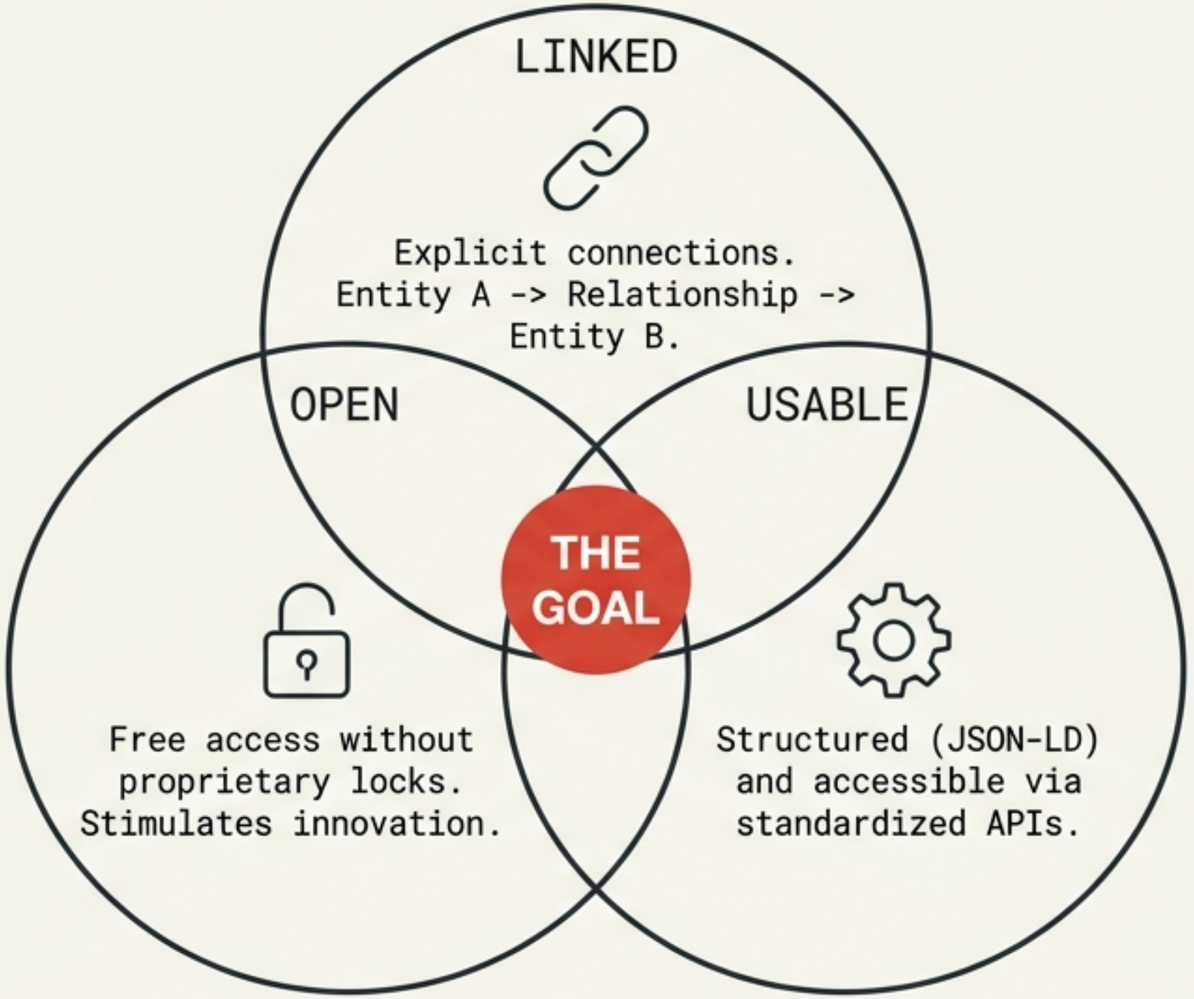
The Framework: Linked Open Usable Data (LOUD)



Milestone: Version 1.0 of the Linked Art core model and API released February 19, 2025.

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Structuring Reality: The Five Core Entities

CRITICAL DISTINCTION

Physical Object

Roboto Mono

The tangible item. Tracks condition & custody.

Visual Work

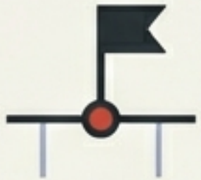
Roboto Mono

The intellectual idea. Tracks influence & themes.

Agents

Roboto Mono

People & Groups (Artists, Patrons).



Events

Roboto Mono

Activities (Creation, Destruction, Exhibition).

Places

Roboto Mono

Locations relevant to history.

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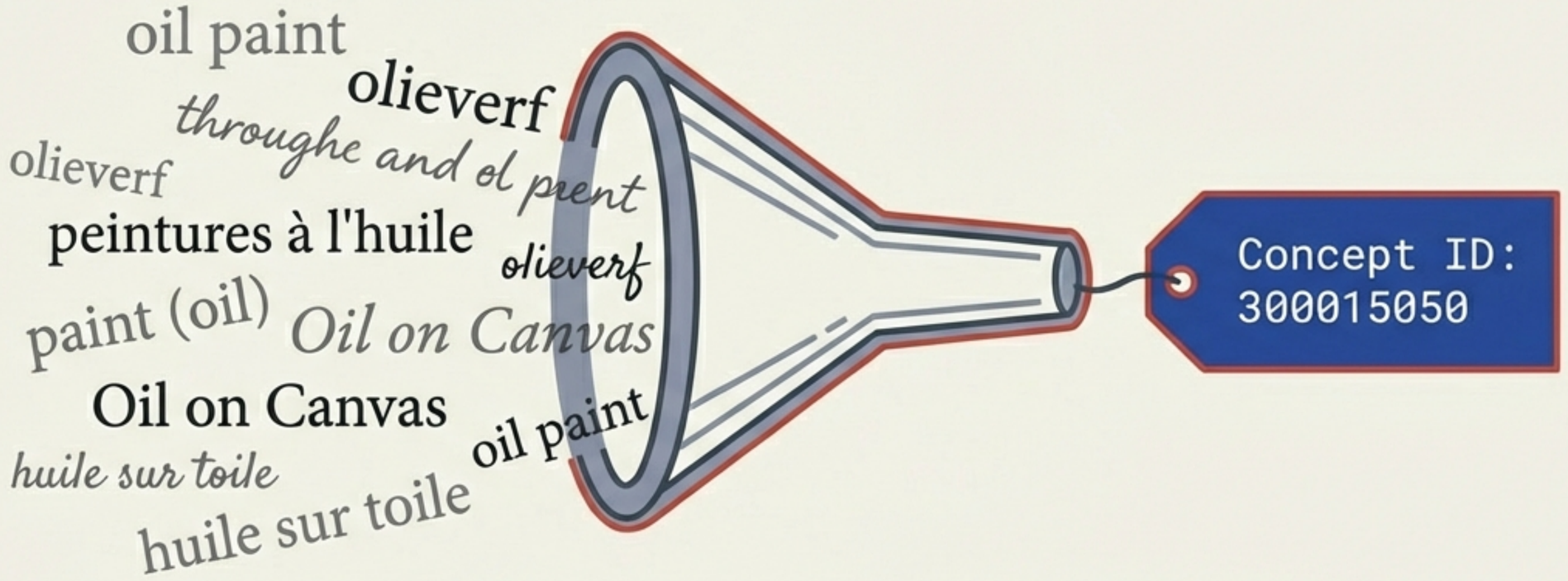
The Semantic Engine

The Art & Architecture Thesaurus (AAT)



AAT provides the controlled vocabulary that populates the Linked Art model.
It moves beyond words to Concepts, anchored by unique numeric IDs.

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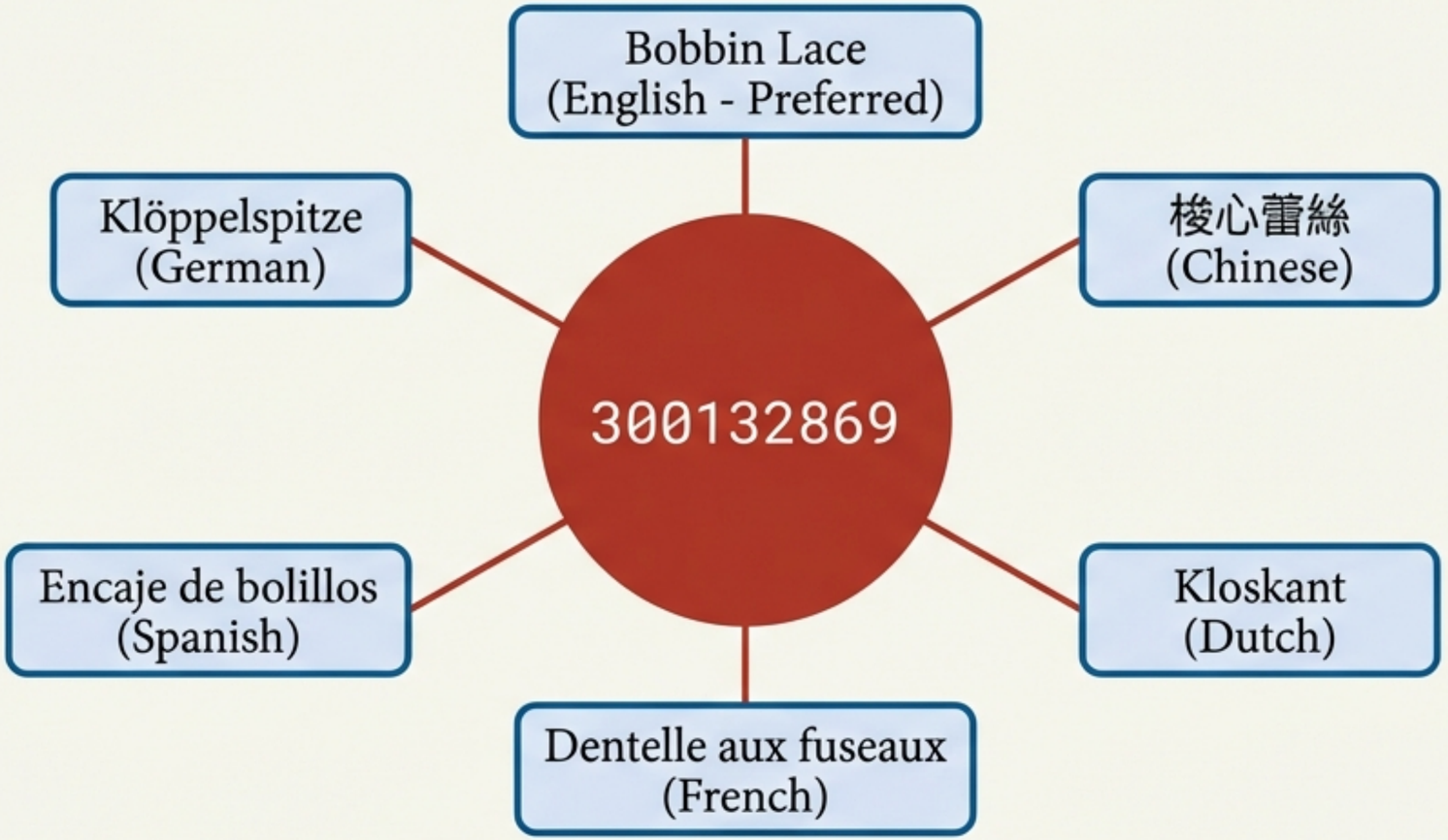
Bridging Global Culture through Equivalence



Exact Equivalence allows a researcher to query ‘Kloskant’ and retrieve records cataloged as ‘Bobbin Lace’.

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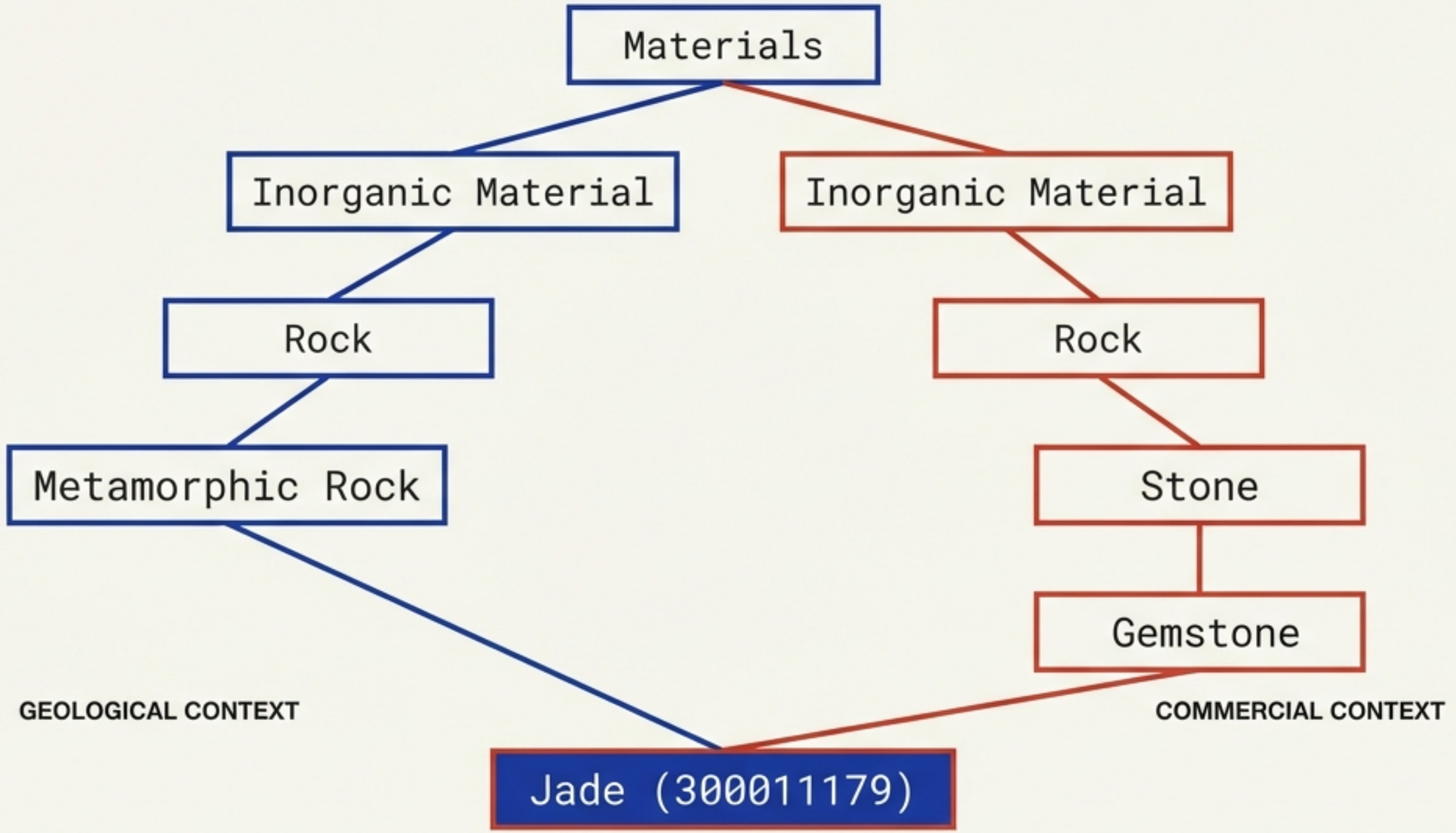
The Power of Facets & Polyhierarchy



AAT is organized into 7 Facets.

Polyhierarchy allows a geologist and a jeweler to find the same object via different search paths.

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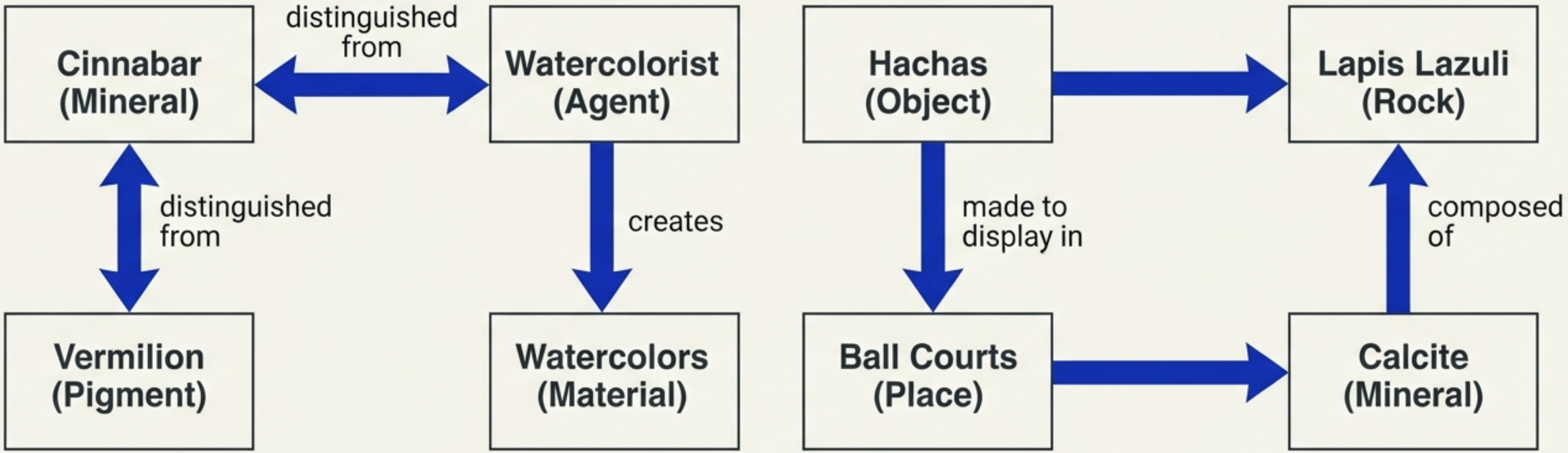
Defining Context: Associative Relationships



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Case Study: Camel Made for a Tomb

Object Type: Funerary Sculpture [AAT: 300007466]
Garamond

Material: Earthenware [AAT: 300140803]
Garamond

Technique: Sancai Glaze [AAT: 300387380]
Garamond

Period: Tang Dynasty (618-907)
Garamond

Subject: *Camelus bactrianus* (Bactrian Camel)
Garamond

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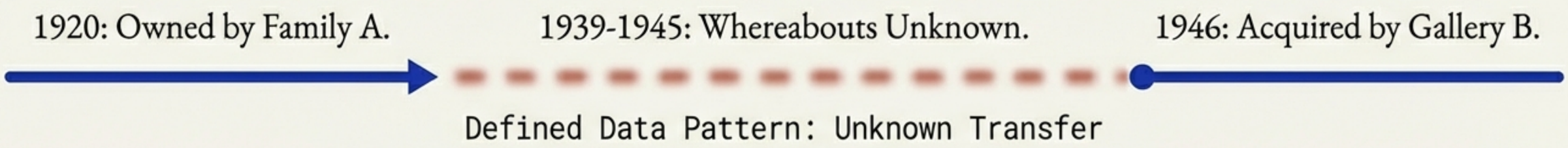
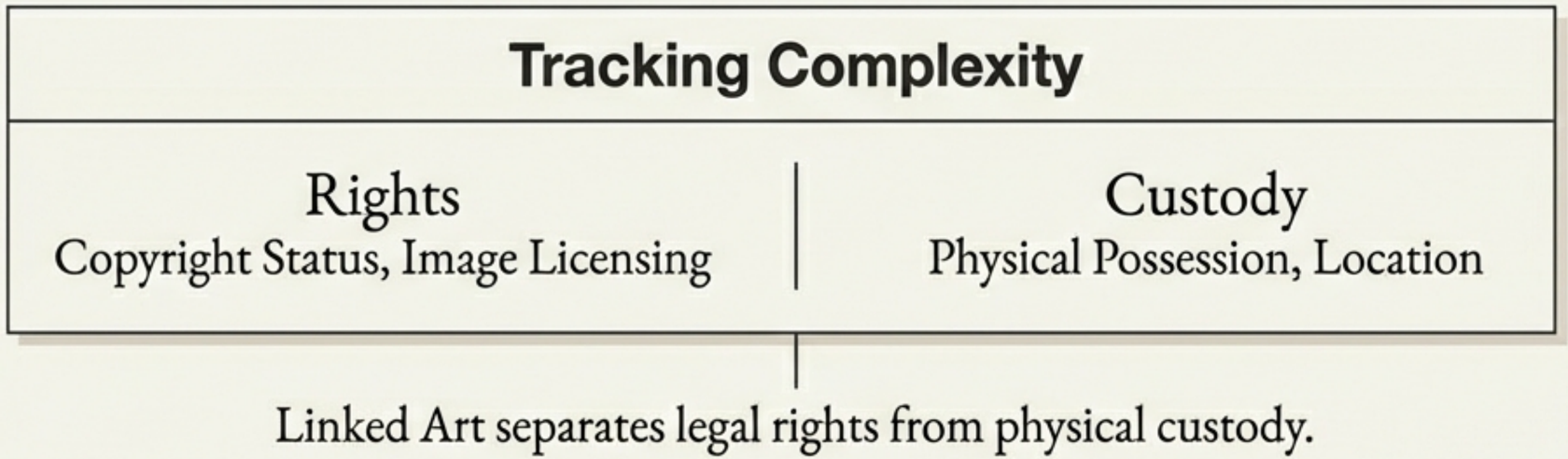
Structuring the Messiness of History





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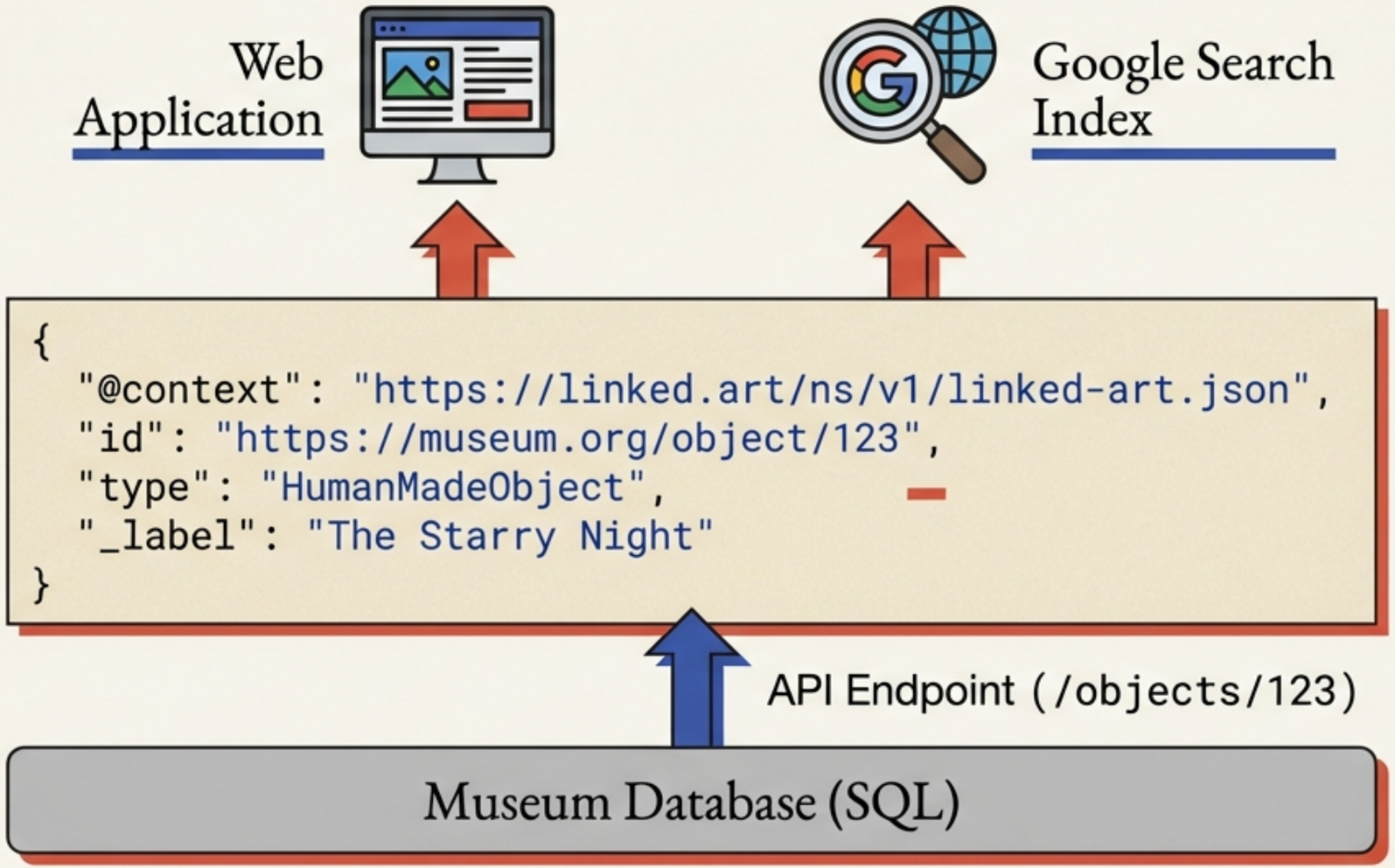
The Tech Stack: JSON-LD and APIs



JSON-LD bridges the gap between complex RDF triples and developer-friendly formats.

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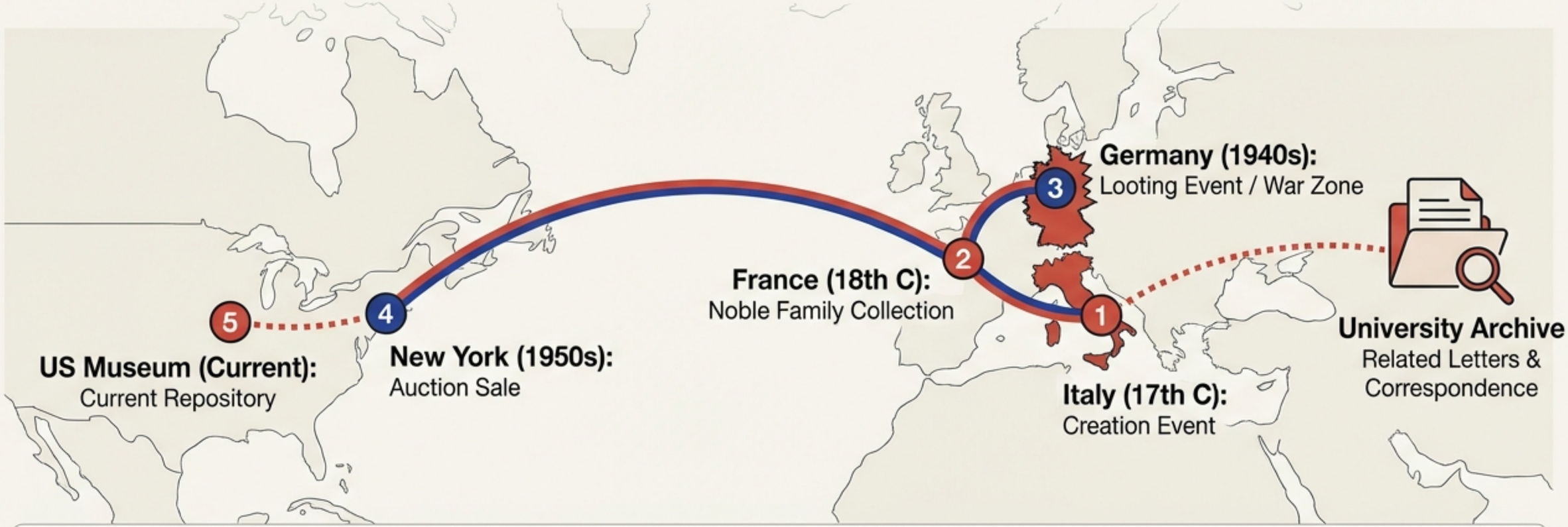
Unlocking New Narratives



One Query: “Show me all objects created in `17th Century Italy`, `sold in NY in the 1950s`, with `related correspondence`.”

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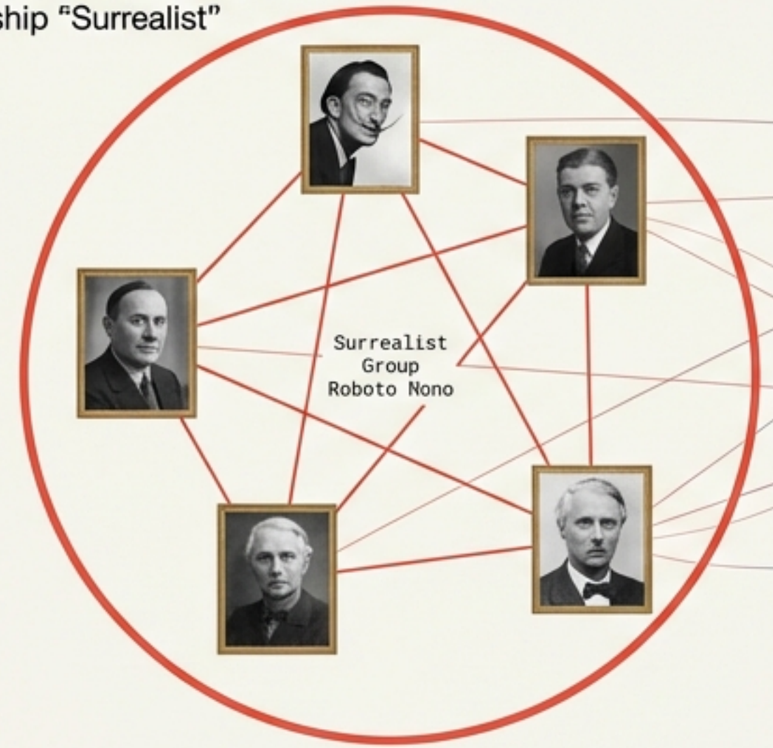
From Search to Synthesis: Networked Intelligence

Social Networks

Artists connected by group membership “Surrealist”



Material Analysis

Objects connected by “Cadmium Yellow” usage

Iconography

Works connected by the theme "Melancholy"

Material Analysis

Objects connected by “Cadmium Yellow” usage

Iconography

Works connected by the theme "Melancholy"

Moving from isolated index cards to the synapses of cultural history.

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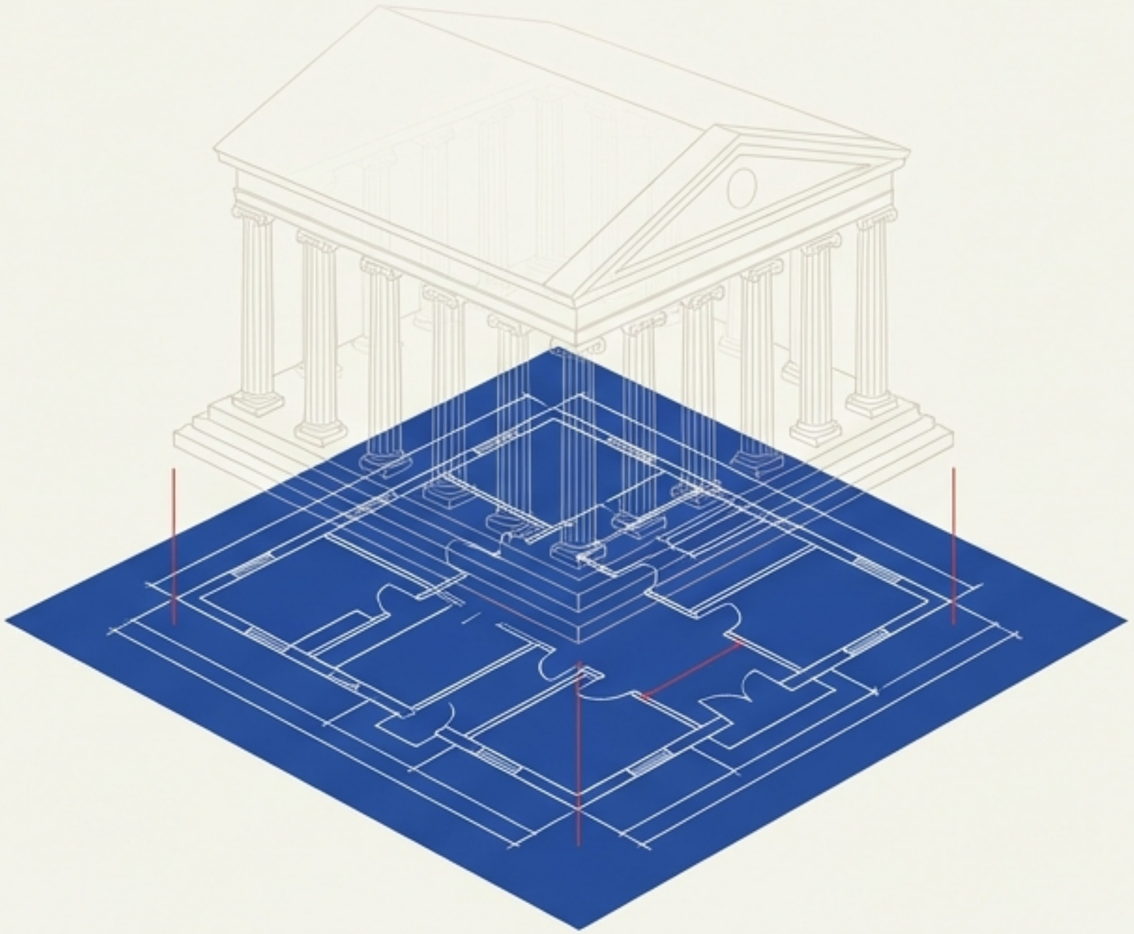
A Shared Blueprint for Cultural Memory



1. For Institutions: A stable target for updating legacy systems.

2. For Users: Seamless discovery across boundaries.

3. For History: Making heritage usable, not just visible.

"If the history of who influenced whom, materials, and ownership becomes interconnected... what completely new kinds of art history might emerge?"

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